Global effect of Floods

1460. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the warning issued by the UN Researchers that the number of people vulnerable to floods is expected to be around 2 billion worldwide by 2050 due to global warming, deforestation, rising sea levels and population growth in flood-prone areas;

(b) if so, whether the extent of its impact in India has been assessed; and

(c) if so, what preventive and precautionary measures are being taken so that the vulnerability of our people is reduced to the minimum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) A study carried out at United Nations University and reported in June 2004 has indicated that the number of people worldwide vulnerable to a devastating flood is expected to increase to 2 billion by 2050 due to climate change, deforestation, rising sea levels and population growth in flood-prone lands. The Government is aware of the flood problem in the country and various structural & non-structural measures are being taken by the Government of India and the State Governments. Recently, a 21 member Task Force has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission to look into the problem of recurring floods in Assam and other States which are very frequently affected by floods.

Sharing of river water

1461. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are disputes on sharing of river water between various States;

(b) if so, the details of such States and rivers as on today, category-wise;

(c) the details of States and rivers having disputes in the watershed areas of rivers as on today;

(d) the action taken to resolve the above disputes;

(e) whether inter-linking of disputed rivers and of watersheds are on the anvil;

(f) if so, the action taken if any, thereon; and

(g) whether Government propose to take steps to review the river linking project in the light of the above disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The details of the Inter-State river water sharing disputes referred to the Union Government under Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956 are as follows:

Sl. No.	River/Rivers	States concerned
1	Ravi & Beas	Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan
2	Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry
3	Madie/Mandovi/Mahadayi	Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra
4	Krishna	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

(d) The water disputes related to Ravi & Beas, Cauvery and Krishna have been referred to the Tribunals for adjudication in 1986, 1990 & 2004 respectively. In respect of Madei/Mandovi water dispute, the Minister (WR) convened an inter-State meeting in December, 2002, during which it was decided that Government of Goa and Central Water Commission would make joint efforts to reconcile the discrepancies in the data and in yield figure.

(e) and (f) The Peninsular Component of National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development prepared by Government envisages interlinking of Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery. The feasibility reports of 9 links in Peninsular Component have been completed.

(g) The Government envisages a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking of the rivers of the country in a fully consultative manner.

Release of water from Almatti Dam

1462. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would prevail and take up the matter with